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Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the sending the control information includes sending the control information at at least 10 Mb/sec.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the sending the control information includes sending the control information at at least 100 Mb/sec.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the sending information includes sending the control information via a data bus of the MII.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the sending the information via the data bus includes sending the information in frames.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the frames each include a preamble, a start frame delimiter, the control information, and an end frame delimiter.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the frames include an identifier, and wherein the using the information includes identifies identifying the frames in the network device.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the using the information includes extracting the control information from the frames in the network device.

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9. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a physical layer network device, the method comprising:

sending control information from a tester to the physical layer network device via a media independent interface (MII) at a data rate greater than 2.5 Mb/sec; and
using the control information to write to and/or read from registers of the tester;
wherein the sending the control information includes sending the information via at least four pins of a data bus.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a physical layer network device, the method comprising:

sending control information from a tester to the physical layer network device via a media independent interface (MII) at a data rate greater than 2.5 Mb/sec; and
using the control information to write to and/or read from registers of the tester;
wherein the sending the control information includes sending the information in nibbles of at least four bits.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the control information includes information in the form of register addresses and register contents.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the operations include writing to and reading from memory registers of the network device.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising evaluating the network device using the information from the network device passed to the tester.

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15. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a physical layer network device, the method comprising:

passing information between a tester and the physical layer network device via one or more data buses of a media independent interface (MII), wherein the information includes control information passed from the tester to the network device; and

using the control information ~~passed from the tester to the network device~~ to perform operations in the network device;

wherein the passing the information includes passing information along at least four pins of the MII.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the passing the information includes passing the information at a rate of greater than 2.5 Mb/sec.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the sending information includes sending the information at at least 10 Mb/sec.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the sending information includes sending the information at at least 100 Mb/sec.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a physical layer network device, the method comprising:

passing information between a tester and the physical layer network device via one or more data buses of a media independent interface (MII), wherein the information includes control information passed from the tester to the network device; and

using the control information ~~passed from the tester to the network device~~ to perform operations in the network device;

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wherein the passing the information includes passing the information in nibbles of at least four bits.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of testing a physical layer network device, the method comprising:

passing information between a tester and the physical layer network device via one or more data buses of a media independent interface (MII), wherein the information includes control information passed from the tester to the network device;

using the control information passed from the tester to the network device to perform operations in the network device; and

placing the network device in a test mode prior to passing the control information to the network device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the sending the control information includes sending the control information at at least 10 Mb/sec.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the sending the control information includes sending the control information at at least 100 Mb/sec.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the sending information includes sending the control information via a data bus of the MII.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the sending the information via the data bus includes sending the information in frames.

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25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the frames each include a preamble, a start frame delimiter, the control information, and an end frame delimiter.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the frames include an identifier, and wherein the using the information includes identifies identifying the frames in the network device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the using the information includes extracting the control information from the frames in the network device.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the control information includes information in the form of register addresses and register contents.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the operations include writing to and reading from memory registers of the network device.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising evaluating the network device using the information from the network device passed to the tester.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the passing the information includes passing the information at a rate of greater than 2.5 Mb/sec.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the sending information includes sending the information at at least 10 Mb/sec.

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33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the sending information includes sending the information at at least 100 Mb/sec.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the operations include writing to and reading from memory registers of the network device.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising evaluating the network device using the information from the network device passed to the tester.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the passing the information includes passing the information at a rate of greater than 2.5 Mb/sec.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the sending information includes sending the information at at least 10 Mb/sec.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the sending information includes sending the information at at least 100 Mb/sec.

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